

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
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AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW.

NIRLO'S GARDEN.
Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets.—THE
LADY OF THE LAKES, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10 P. M.WALLACK'S THEATRE.
Broadway and Thirteenth street.—THE CLAUDEBINE
MARRIAGE, at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M. Mr. Lester
Wallack, Miss Jeffrey Lewis.OLYMPIC THEATRE.
Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker streets.—
VALDEYLLA AND NOVELTY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.BOOTH'S THEATRE.
Sixth avenue, corner of Twenty-third street.—KING
JOHN, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. John McCullough.METROPOLITAN THEATRE.
No. 106 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 7:45 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.WOODS' MUSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Thirtieth street.—THE ORANGE
GIRL, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Louis Aldrich.DALY'S FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.
Twenty-third street and Broadway.—OLIVER TWIST,
at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M. Miss Fanny Davenport,
Miss Helen, Mr. Louis James.MRS. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE.
LONDON A. SUZANNE, at 8 P. M. Miss Jane Coombs.NEW PARK THEATRE, BROOKLYN.
CHRIS AND LENA, at 8 P. M. Baker and Faron.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE.
No. 20 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 2:30
P. M.; closes at 5:30 P. M.; also at 8 P. M.; closes at 11 P. M.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE.
Twenty-third street, near Sixth avenue.—NEGRO MIN-
STRELS, at 8 P. M.; closes at 10:45 P. M.CENTRAL PARK GARDEN.
FIFTH AVENUE, at 10 P. M.; closes at 11:30 P. M.STEINWAY HALL.
Fourteenth street.—GACER, FADYANI, Miss Mendes,
Feraudi, Agnoul.NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN.
Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street.—ANNUAL EX-
HIBITION. Open day and evening.COLOSSEUM.
Broadway, corner of Thirty-fifth street.—LONDON IN
1874, at 1 P. M.; closes at 5 P. M.; same at 7 P. M.; closes
at 10 P. M.ROMAN HIPPODROME.
Madison avenue and Twenty-sixth street.—GRAND
PALESTINE CONGRESS OF NATIONS, at 1:30 P. M. and
7 P. M.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, May 24, 1874.

From our reports this morning the probability
is that the weather to-day will be generally
cloudy, with occasional light rains.WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—Gold opened at
112½ and closed at 112½. Stocks were firmer.THE FRIENDS HAVE COME AGAIN, but are
mum, as regards their religious practice.
The ministers and elders held their regular
yearly meeting at the meeting house, Rut-
ledge place, yesterday. The doors were
closed to the outside world. There need not
be, however, any anxiety. These good people
are not likely to set the world on fire or to
disturb the peace of any one.THE PROCLAMATION OF DON CARLOS to his
army after the retreat from the heights of Bil-
bao, which we publish elsewhere this morn-
ing, is certainly a most extraordinary docu-
ment. On the eve of retreat his admiration is
greater than on occasions of victory. When
the chances of success appear more distant
than ever he talks of his victorious flag wav-
ing gloriously over the royal quarters in
Madrid.LEGAL VIOLENCE.—Another police clubbing
case has occurred on Broadway, in which,
without any right, the officers undertook to
arrest and pummel a gentleman in his own
store because he objected to the entrance of
the police without a warrant. If public con-
fidence is to exist in the police force these
breaches of the clearly laid down rules of
police procedure will have to be brought to
an end. What have the Mayor and the
Police Commissioners to say to the matter?CREATING MORE OFFICES.—The great noise
made a short time ago about retrenchment and
cutting down the expenses of the departments
in Washington is likely to end in smoke. There
have been several propositions to create new
offices or to add to the clerical force, and
now an amendment has been offered to the
Legislative, Executive and Judicial Appropria-
tion bill to create the office of Third Assistant
Secretary of State, with a salary of \$3,500
a year. It is hard to bring either the depart-
ments or Congress to economy.THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN
FRANCE AND GERMANY.—Prince Clovis Hohen-
lobe has presented his credentials as German
Ambassador to France to President Mac-
Mahon. The most friendly assurances were,
as we are informed by cable, exchanged on
the occasion. Prince Clovis Hohenlobe ranks
as an excellently devout German Catholic.
In this respect he will be agreeable to the
French President. His appointment as Am-
bassador of the Emperor of Germany will be
accepted in France as a covert contradiction
to Bismarck's Church policy. Beyond this
the "friendly assurances" may be set down as
mere diplomatic palaver.LEGISLATIVE BLUNDERS.—The last session
of the State Legislature seems to have been
marked by unusual carelessness and incapacity,
as well as by the ordinary share of
dishonesty. We have just heard of the sin-
gular alteration of the Supply bill between its
final passage and its arrival in the Executive
Chamber, and that mysterious affair seems to
have given rise to conflicting statements be-
tween Senators and Assemblymen. We are
now told that through gross carelessness or
worse a bill signed by the Governor and now
a law contained provisions ordered to be
stricken out by an amendment which is cer-
tified as having passed both houses. The law
in question is an amendment of the city char-
ter, and the blunder or fraud, whichever it
may be, defeats the object designed to be ac-
complished. The Consolidation act is also
full of difficulties, and the general muddle of
legislation makes it evident that our repre-
sentatives at Albany were more intent upon
the profits they secured than upon the laws
they passed.

The Civil Rights Bill in Congress.

Although the bill in regard to the rights of negroes which has just passed the Senate can never be enforced, and is scarcely worthy consideration as a measure likely to have any influence upon the life of the people, it may very profitably be contemplated as an indication of the progress we have made in our departure from the notions that prevailed with the founders of this Republic touching the distribution of power between Congress and the State governments. That men who had spouted politics long enough to get themselves sent to the United States Senate should be so little acquainted with the operation of political principles as to believe this measure could have the effect they propose might be thought strange, if there was any evidence that Senators believed the bill likely to have the effect they pretend to desire, and if it was not, on the contrary, clear that they vote only to make a record for their party claims to negro favor, and merely as kissing the dust on the shoes of the negro voter. But the very fact that a republican party vote in the Senate can be given for this bill is instructive as presenting for general recognition the fact that the national constitution is regarded by the party in power as an obsolete instrument—a dead letter—a compact, without legal, political or moral vitality.

For all local legislation, for all domestic government, the States were, in the theory of the constitution, sovereign Powers, and within their sphere Congress had no more authority than the British Parliament; while for all dealings with foreign Powers and for the regulation of some great functions of government which regarded the States together as an aggregate sovereignty Congress was alone supreme. It was always difficult to draw the line as to all the facts affected; some would be claimed as on one side, some on the other; but the widest flights of assertion of Congressional supremacy still admitted that there was a vast field of legislation on strictly local subjects that was only within the competency of the State authorities. Now, however, we see the United States Senate enter this field of strictly domestic subjects and proceed to legislate, not only on topics that were formerly left to the State Legislatures, but on topics that were regulated by county authorities, by boards of supervisors, and even by the more strictly local boards of police and excise.

In the first section of this bill for civil rights Congress pretends to lay down rules for the hotel keepers, to say who shall travel in public conveyances and to govern the theatres and places of amusement generally; to legislate for our common schools, colleges, hospitals, insane asylums and charitable institutions generally; nay, even to declare who shall be buried in our potter's fields—for we believe those are the only graveyards we have that are not private property. Further than all this, Congress proceeds to declare who shall sit on the grand juries in the several States, who shall serve as petit jurors, and to lay down penalties for the misconduct of the Commissioners of Juries and similar strictly local officials. All this is not merely unconstitutional; it is absurd and nonsensical. It does not merely transcend the power of Congress, but it goes beyond the point up to which people can contemplate the law with respect, and, at least, with straight faces.

In several States where the sale of alcoholic beverages is forbidden by statute it has been attempted at different times to plead the license given by the United States internal revenue authorities, as conferring a right to sell liquor that was superior to the State laws against that traffic. But the decisions of the courts have been uniformly to the effect that the general government only taxed the commercial enterprises it found in existence in the several States, and that its license was a receipt for the tax and protected against a second collection of the same sum, but did not and could not give any rights as against State laws, which were absolutely supreme on such subjects. And that is evidently the correct position as to innkeepers, beer peddlers, stage drivers, menagerie and wax works owners, keepers of graveyards, lunatic asylums, cremation furnaces, &c. These gentlemen have no official knowledge of Congress; Albany they know, and the City Hall they know, and some of them are even acquainted with the mysteries of the Tombs and Mulberry street; but Washington is as far beyond their comprehension as the transit of Venus. If innkeepers were licensed to keep open houses of public entertainment by the general government, and not by the excise boards, Congress and not the local authorities might dictate how they should manage their houses, and stipulate what they should do with the mouldy cheese and what with the impossible butter. If the statutes incorporating our railroads were made at Washington, and not at Albany, they would, perhaps, cost more, but we could understand that Congress would then have the power to add to or take from them. If our common schools and our public hospitals and our pauper graveyards were purchased and supported by taxes levied on the whole people of the United States it would be but rational that the national legislature should have the right to say who should be taught or physicked or buried in them. But as Congress does not furnish one copper toward the support of the public schools or public hospitals of this city, whence does it derive any right to say that a colored man or any other sort of man shall be received into them if the local managers decree otherwise?

In legislation of this sort the Senate simply fulminates a bull against a comet. It has no more authority over the subjects which it pretends to regulate than the Shah of Persia or the Emperor of China or any other magnificent potentate, upon whose intellect his lunar relationships have had a bad effect. Congressmen, in so far as they are sincere in regard to this bill, are no doubt misled by that portentously comprehensive clause of the Fourteenth amendment which declares that "Congress shall have power to enforce by appropriate legislation the provisions of this article." But one clause in the constitution cannot have the power to nullify the purpose, scope and effect of the whole instrument taken together. Perhaps the States wanted to add to the constitution; we cannot believe they intended to expunge it. It was never supposed that a clause of two lines at the tail of an amendment would abrogate the whole grand compact and take its place. In the same amendment it is said:—"No State shall make

or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." These are the wise and safe indications of the only appropriate legislation that is possible. Congress may define within certain limits a course for the sovereign States, but it cannot oust them and pretend to perform their ministerial functions.

But if this legislation is foolish constitutionally and as it regards national politics, it is even worse in its aspect from the standpoint of general or abstract politics. It directly provokes, excites and cultivates the antipathies of race and caste by forcing into prominence distinctions that are ineradicable. It enforces conflict by causing the law to give an equality which the Creator has denied, and ruinously injures the race it pretends to serve by placing it in a position of antagonism to a superior and dominant race. No laws on such subjects are sound or effective save in so far as they are declaratory of actual conditions. If the law designates a line of action that is in accord with the tendencies of human pride and passion there is harmonious operation; but if law and human nature are in conflict it is human nature that prevails, and every ineffective law that is made is a direct loss to the moral power of the State.

Senators, however, do not care what the operation of this law will be. They give a vote for it as they might place a bait to catch the negro in their political trap. They do not even care if the bill is beaten, so that they can lay the fault of its defeat upon the opposition. We are not sure but they vote for it the more readily from a confident anticipation that it will not get through; for thus they will secure credit with the negro and have no responsibility for a bad law. They vote also as men who bid desperately on a last call. There is no rational probability that after this Congress there will ever be another with a republican majority; but if there is it will only be through negro votes, and thus they venture all the claim they have on the white man for a desperate endeavor to gain the negro.

Pulpit Topics To-Day.

A new era is commemorated by the Church to-day. The Pentecostal anniversary has come again, and yet comparatively few ministers outside of the Catholic Church attach much significance to the memory of that great day. There is, however, one who to-day will explain "The Nature of the Pentecostal Gift," the Rev. John S. Davenport, of Boston, who will preach on this subject in the Catholic Apostolic church. The world has received no greater gift than the Holy Ghost, and what people want to-day more than anything else is an intelligent and simple exposition of the nature and personal work of this Divine Spirit. Too little heed is paid to these things, and the ignorance in the Church to-day on such vital Christian doctrines is profound and deeply to be regretted. Mr. Davenport's exposition should therefore be so plain and practical that the people can carry away his ideas with them.

That the heavy head is a crown of life if it be found in the way of righteousness was beautifully illustrated by the long and useful life of the late Rev. Dr. Thomas De Witt, of the Collegiate Reformed Church, of this city. His friend and fellow laborer in the Gospel, Dr. H. D. Ganse, will this morning illustrate, by scenes in the life of Dr. De Witt, the satisfaction which God gives in long life. Without the comforts and hopes which Christianity gives this world would be a pretty dull place for a man who has passed his four score years. But to Dr. De Witt there was a real satisfaction in living, for he lived not to himself, but to Christ, who loved him and gave Himself for him. It was faith in this Christ that sustained him and made him so eminently useful in his long ministerial career. Of the nature of that faith—of saving faith—it is important that we should know something, and we may learn something about it from Mr. Sweetser, who will make it the subject of his discourse this evening.

The mysteries and imageries of prophecy are the delight and study of some ministers. Great profit, mentally and spiritually, may be derived from this study if it is pursued in the right spirit. Mr. Love, of Albany, who is not unknown to New Yorkers, will bring his study to bear this evening on the Mystic Stone and the Image of which some of our readers may remember Daniel speaks in his prophecy.

Dr. Fulton, of Brooklyn, will have something to say this morning on his pet theme—baptism. "Jesus came to the Baptist" is the dry announcement, but we may imagine what an array of argument lies at the back of it to support the doctrine of immersion as the only mode of baptism. The Doctor has chosen another theme for his evening meditation, which is equally familiar to him—namely, "The Women's Temperance Movement—Its Peril and Its Hope." Temperance people will of course be interested to hear the views of such an eminent pastor on so important a subject. The Women's Temperance Union will at the same time discuss their own movement in Seventeenth street Methodist Episcopal church. They evidently see more of hope than of danger in it, and are determined to go forward with it in the name of the Lord.

Theatrical Nuisances.

The lady who invoked our aid to abate the annoyance caused by the male portion of the audience leaving their seats during theatrical performances has evidently thrust her head into a hornet's nest, and her chignon is in danger. Man is a long suffering animal, but the insult which our lady correspondent put in the name of the fair sex offered to mankind in general by sweeping asseverations on the score of his "smiling" propensities, added to the injury suffered from chignons, has proved too much for his good temper. We publish in another column a specimen of the communications that have been pouring in on us, and we fear the result of the unhappy letter will be a male crusade against false hair and feathers. If the flag of revolt—"No chignons and no feathers"—should be once hung out, there will be such a rally of theatre-going males that we tremble for the topknots of our lady friends. Of course the HERALD will always be on the side of the ladies whether they are in the right or the wrong, and should any iconoclastic manager attempt to disturb

us much as a single hair of one fair switch we shall purchase a bottle of concentrated gall to express appropriately our loathing and contempt for the monster.

The Lesson of the Mill River Disaster.

Among the pulpit themes to-day the lesson of the Mill River disaster will probably be at least an incidental topic. A more important subject could not be selected, for the breaking away of the insufficient structure called the Williamsburg dam points out some phases of Christian ethics which cannot longer be disregarded. The first of these is that the erection of insecure structures of any kind is criminal and ought to be punished as a crime. As in the case of the Mill River reservoir, the cause is usually traceable to parsimony on the one hand and greed on the other. We are told that the mill owners in this beautiful Massachusetts valley preferred the contractor who offered to build the dam for twenty-five thousand dollars to one who refused to construct it for less than seventy-five thousand dollars, thereby saving fifty thousand dollars and losing everything. This is the side of parsimony. We believe that a thorough investigation into the cost of the structure for which the contractor was paid twenty-five thousand dollars would place the actual outlay at less than ten thousand dollars. This is the side of greed. We find the same kind of parsimony and greed in the construction of railroads and bridges and great engineering works of every description. We frequently hear of railroad trains being precipitated over embankments and of bridges giving way under heavily laden cars. One day it is a boiler which bursts, as in the case of the Westfield, and the next the foundering of a lengthened steamship in mid-ocean, as in the recent disasters to the ships of the French line. Every few days an unsafe building topples over in New York and Brooklyn, while the younger cities have each year a longer list of calamities of this kind. Indeed, so loosely are immense buildings of every kind constructed nowadays that whole towns are in danger of falling before a high wind. Palatial residences are built in a month and great showhouses for the entertainment of the people are finished in a fortnight. One very ridiculous person at Lancaster, Pa., has built several houses in a day. Contractors employ bad workmen and bad material because they are cheap, and push their work forward regardless of consequences. It is impossible to exaggerate the deficiencies of American architecture and engineering, and no words are too strong to denounce the criminal loss of life and waste of property which are the direct consequences of these parsimonious and greedy practices.

This is what Thomas Carlyle a few years ago called "Shooting Niagara." In his own vigorous language he described modern structures of every kind as cheap and nasty. Any one who would verify the aptness of these words has only to look at the roadbed of many of our railroads or to recall the jolting memories of jumping coaches and swaying bridges in his experiences of railway travel. In every part of the country the traveller sees railroads perched aloft on wooden legs, and no human being can tell when the timbers will give way. In this city nearly every tenement house is a death trap not only for the inmates but for passers-by in the streets. In Fifth avenue a splendid looking apartment house is supported by props, and in Broadway a number of houses, weakened by the removal of adjacent buildings, are kept from falling by wooden beams planted against them. We have a Superintendent of Buildings, to prevent the erection of unsafe structures, and he has an attorney, whose special business it is to enforce the law against those who violate its provisions; and yet there are more insecure edifices in New York to-day than when these offices were created. Officials no longer appear to think that they have in their keeping a sacred public trust, but seem to regard their offices as places of mere personal emolument and stepping stones to still better positions.

There is no telling how many dams there may be in the country as unsafe as that in Massachusetts, which broke away a week ago and let loose the flood upon the unsuspecting inhabitants of Mill River valley. We are, indeed, shooting Niagara, and though there is always death at the bottom, no effective measures are taken to prevent the recurrence of the disasters which follow so closely upon the heels of each other. Everything is cheap and nasty, and seemingly, there is no power in the law nor sufficient virtue in the public administration to bring the necessary revolution. We can recall to-day the horrors of the Westfield disaster almost as vividly as on that beautiful Sunday when the city was startled by the terrible story of the accident. Even in that case the law was not enforced, and nobody was punished. It is doubtful even if steam boilers are any safer to-day than they were before that fearful calamity occurred. The zeal in the inspection of the boilers of ferries, boats and steam vessels generally and in large manufacturing works which was displayed after that event was relaxed as soon as the event itself passed out of the public mind. An investigation into a railroad accident usually ends in a mild censure of the persons least to blame. Nobody was ever sent to Sing Sing for building deathtraps in New York. Even in the Mill River affair public indignation was first directed against Spelman, because it was alleged that he detained Cheney while the latter was on his way to warn the villagers. The men who are responsible for this disaster are the mill owners and the contractor. The former must not escape condemnation at the expense of the latter, even though it should be shown that he made fifteen thousand dollars out of his contract; for they gave him the contract that they might save more than three times that amount, and they accepted his work though it was feared from the beginning that the dam was unsafe. The exact cost of the work is a very important matter in the investigation which is to be made this week. Nothing can more clearly illustrate the danger that was patent to the eye of every engineer that ever looked upon the Williamsburg reservoir, nor can anything more clearly prove the utter recklessness and parsimony and greed that enter into so many undertakings for the development of the resources of the country. The lesson of the Mill River disaster must not be overlooked or forgotten till men of every class learn that what Carlyle so aptly termed "Shooting Niagara" is a crime that is to be punished as a crime.

The Anniversaries.

We have had our annual visitation of clergymen from all parts of the country, and in spite of it the weather has been good. One or two attempts were made to get up the canonical rain, but they proved signal failures. Exactly what connection exists between ministers and rain we have never been able to discover; but the fact is not to be denied that an inundation of pastors almost always brings an inundation of the aqueous fluid.

The meetings have been of unusual importance this year. The talking has been good, and the questions discussed have been handled with logic and common sense. It must be productive of great results to gather the thinking from all parts of the land once a year that they may compare notes and remodel their theories, and to invite the lights of lesser magnitude to revolve about the fixed stars of science and theology in larger or smaller groups, according to the degree of attraction exercised. Oftentimes a profound thinker and conscientious scholar is unable to criticise his own conclusions and to find out their exact practical value when in the midst of his researches. But when he subjects his theories to the intellectual anatomists who meet in New York every May he is not only unmercifully handled—which is itself a healthy discipline—but he is quickened to new effort in his favorite study. This annual exhibition of vivisection adds to the general scholarship of the country, and is a kind of tonic and stimulant which induces intellectual and spiritual health.

Among the important meetings were those of the Social Science Association, now in progress, and those of the Reformed Episcopal Church, which has succeeded in laying out a policy that makes a square and honest issue with the body from which it has seceded. All matters pertaining to social progress claim the marked attention of the public, and the discussion of any topic which has for its end a greater security of human life or the permanency of our institutions deserves all possible encouragement. We are glad to hear any fair criticisms on our penal and reformatory institutions, and the thoughts of all true philanthropists on these matters will be carefully read and pondered by the general public. The gradual change in our ideas of the proper function of a prison, and the new conception of the possible educational and moral influences that may be brought to bear on our criminals which is just beginning to take possession of all believers in human progress, mark an era in political economy. The growing conviction, too, that the ocean can be divided into highways which need never intersect, suggested by the recent disasters which have rendered a trip across the water a matter of no small peril, is worthy of all possible scientific investigation. This is a matter in which every merchant is interested, as well as every man and woman who parts with a friend. It is evident that something should be done, and at once, to render the navigation of the Northern Atlantic less hazardous. It is hard enough to submit to loss of life by storms and icebergs, without being haunted by the possibility and of late months the probability, of a collision, which may under proper regulations be avoided.

Then, again, the attempt to solve the problem of pauperism commends itself to the good judgment of every taxpayer. The theories on this subject have been very various, some of them worthy of experiment and some evidently visionary. All honest talk on such a subject, however, is productive of good results. It is brought to our notice every day, since one of the first things the merchant is compelled to do when he enters his office is to so barricade himself that he cannot be subjected to a raid by a whole army of mendicants. If some who would rather starve than work can be punished, and the rest who are unable to find employment can be helped to their Saturday night's wages, the community would breathe more quietly and raise a monument to the originator of the new order of things.

Next in importance to these social problems comes the attempt to found a new denomination with the backbone of common sense in it. The platform adopted commends itself as reasonable in most particulars, and the evils complained of in the old régime must have proved very galling to the gentlemen who submitted under protest. We have noticed in the new organization two facts not without significance to which the attention of these reformers should be called. In the first place, quite a number who have joined or are ready to join the body are not settled pastors, and therefore bring with them a certain suspicion of self-interest. No clergyman who unites with the movement adds any strength to it unless he either brings his parish with him or leaves his parish that he may come himself. In either case the conviction of right is quite apparent and the momentum of actual weight is added to the cause. In the second place, there are very many settled pastors who, if we judge by their public utterances sympathize with the Reformed Church, but do not join it. A little more independency and willingness to sacrifice something would add scores to the catalogue of Bishop Cummins. It may be hard to give up an assured position and a good salary for the uncertainties of such an experiment, but until this is done no progress can be made. The time has come when every man should show his colors.

Altogether the meetings have been more successful than usual. There has been a great deal of talk, but some plans for solid work have been developed.

Stage Drivers' Finance.

In another column we give the story of a needy stage driver—as neat a piece of satire, perhaps unconscious, as has lately seen the light. Our correspondent deals with the problem of stage drivers' wages and stage owners' profits and an oscillating point of equilibrium between the two. From all the known facts it appears that stage owners have always systematically underpaid their drivers from the certainty that the drivers would compensate themselves out of the fares. The Court awarded it and the law allowed it. In that way the drivers were part owners. On a good day they made a great deal, on a poor day less. In short, the owners recognized a regular dishonesty as part of their system, and while this was in full operation they most unfairly, and without the consent of the drivers, introduced the boxes or automatic fare collectors. This compelled the drivers to be ruinously honest. It was as if a man should turn all his chickens into ducks and then dry

up the ponds. Yet the owners recognized the operation of the boxes to some degree, for upon introducing them they increased the wages seventy-five cents a day; but this, the drivers say, is too little for the real difference, and they want fifty cents more; and our opinion is that the owners should not come any sharp practice over these poor fellows, who state their case with the simple sincerity of thoroughly honest and upright men, who cheated fair while they had the chance. Perhaps the drivers ought to consider it some portion of the equivalent for this fifty cents that they are now paid by somebody else and are not compelled to pay themselves; and— we mention it diffidently—the fact that their accounts may stand better on the books of the recording angel is, perhaps, of some value.

Spirit of the Religious Press.

Our religious contemporaries this week run in a more secular strain than is usual with them. The Independent, which is making a fresh move to larger quarters on Broadway, does not go heedless of the claims of suffering humanity on its columns. It suggests that to-day collections be taken up here in all the churches in aid of the suffering operatives by the Mill River disaster. This is a good suggestion and should be acted on promptly.

The Christian Union briefly seconds the call for pecuniary help at once, and dwells at length on the intricate relations of capital and labor in England to each other and to the State Church. Its comments are based on the "look-out" for the last two years of the Agricultural Laborers' Union. The influence of the State Church party, with here and there a notable exception, is given in favor of the farmers, and the laborers are in consequence going into dissent. This transfer will, by and by, result in disestablishment and possibly in the abolition of the right of primogeniture, entail and other ancient laws and customs of Great Britain, and it is hard to tell what the end may be.

The Methodist has a good word for the Reformed Episcopalians. It says the leaders of this reform movement are not self-seekers; they are not sectarians or schismatics. They have left the Church of their fathers with the kindest expressions of love for it and for all connected with it, and of hope that it may be cured of the evils that beset it. They have left the narrowest of sects, the most culpable of schisms, to engraft themselves into the true church universal, the alliance of believers of various names but the same spirit.

Church and State, discussing the ritualist and reform controversy in the Protestant Episcopal Church, contends that the present need of the Church is "the allaying of the bitterness of controversy and the shaping of all the elements of our system so as to fit it for the largest work for Christ, and open it to the freest and fullest influences of the Holy Spirit."

The Freeman's Journal is too full of the Pilgrimage and its concomitants to find space for any other topic in its editorial columns. The Tablet divides its attention with its own enterprise, "Our Lady of Lourdes," and certain criticisms of the Observer on the Pope and the Bible. The Catholic Review dismisses the Pilgrimage in a few words, and enters into the Encyclopædia controversy with its usual vigor, and defends the spiritual and temporal assumptions of the Papacy against the strictures of a Boston contemporary.

The Jewish Messenger glories over the development of a taste for Hebrew study and literature since the Hebrew free schools were started here in 1864, and it calls for the co-operation of the congregations in making them a success in the future. The Jewish Times has some suggestions and advice to the Board of Delegates of American Israelites, which meets here in annual session during the week. They, of course, will read it.

The Crusaders in Trouble.

The saviors of society have ever been met with scorn, obloquy and persecution. In nothing does history repeat itself with such persistency as in this hatred and ill-will to those who would save men from their evil passions. Even this free and enlightened Republic and boasted nineteenth century are no safeguards for the enthusiast in the cause of humanity. The temperance ladies have discovered this unpleasant fact to their chagrin. They prayed and sang and paraded until in their eagerness to do good they made themselves in the eyes of the law "a nuisance and an obstruction." Then that unpoetic creature, the policeman, who is no respecter of high morality, no weigher of elevated motive, took the ladies by the chignon and marched them into the nearest police station. Forty victims to this legal persecution were pounced upon in Pittsburgh, Pa., and before the fair crusaders could return to their "vain firesides" they were obliged to give bail. This is indeed a sad end to the crusade. The temperance ladies have put themselves in the place of the victims of King Alcohol and will be able to give an account of the disorderly cells at the next meeting of the crusaders. In spite of this little contretemps the ladies promise, by the down of their cheeks, to carry on the war to the bitter end, and we have no doubt they will do it, if it should cost them their chignons.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY.—The Assembly have given proof of a desire to support Marshal MacMahon in his efforts to create a government by adjourning till Thursday. There is in this act a welcome assurance that the French Representatives are not wholly the slaves of faction. Expediency has at last asserted itself, and it may be that the government will receive such support as will render the immediate dissolution of the Assembly unnecessary. This will be an advantage to France, though it may delay the aspirations of some parties in the State. Were the Assembly dissolved now the republicans would probably sweep the country, and this fear will restrain the royalists and Bonapartists from obstructing the government so as to render an immediate appeal to the country necessary. The republicans, too, can well afford to wait. Every day's experience strengthens the hold of republican opinions on the peasants, who are learning that neither kings nor emperors are necessary to the well being of a people or to the security of person and property in the State. When the time does come for dissolution the organization and number of the republican party will place the government securely in their hands.